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what can be accomplished if we go about it in the right way. Many of the sanitary measures of the past we now know to be crude, clumsy and misdirected, yet they are fixed in the popular mind and remain on our statute books. People still talk about the dangers of miasma and sewer gas, and think a deodorizer is a disinfectant.

We are far from acting up to our lights. The housewife wages war against vermin, but she does not realize that they are more dangerous than trolley cars. She gets more excited at the discovery of a moth than a fly, although the former only attacks clothing, not its contents. We have drain pipes in our walls to carry off disease, but beside them are conveniently arranged passages by which roaches can carry diseases from flat to flat, so that everybody has a fair chance to catch whatever is going. Our windows are hospitably open to the malarial mosquito and typhoid-bearing fly. Over our clothing on the street cars crawl unmentionable insects carrying unmentionable diseases. In the fashionable hotel and restaurant the napery and porcelain are immaculate and the waiters are scrupulous; what goes on behind the screen and in the market is another story. We have got past the days when we kept the pig in the parlor, but we still keep the dog in the parlor, which is quite as bad. On the street we see the pet dog gnawing a decaying bone and nosing the foulest spot to be found, and a moment later he is cuddled in the arms of his fair and fastidious mistress and licking her cheek. We have yet to realize that it is the dogs which are not mad that are the more dangerous. They injure more people by their kisses than their bites.

In primitive days man had to associate with the lower animals. He needed dogs and horses and he very properly made friends of them. He is now learning how to do without them, and he should, like a snob who has risen in the world, exclude them from his circle of intimates. The house is not intended for a zoological garden. Insects and animals may be our worst enemies.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE EELS

THE final chapter in the life story of the eel has been written by the Danish expedition under Dr. Joh. Schmidt, which has recently returned to Copenhagen. The breeding grounds have been found between the Bermudas and the Leeward Islands, where the sea reaches a depth of more than a mile.

The origin and mode of reproduction of the common eel have been for centuries a matter of speculation. It has long been observed that large eels migrate toward the sea in autumn and that in the spring little elvers are found under stones on the seashore and ascend the streams in vast numbers. A group of small transparent salt water fishes, known as Leptocephali, were described in 1763, but no one guessed that they were in any way related to the eels.

In 1864, Theo. N. Gill, of the Smithsonian Institution, published the conclusion that these Leptocephali are the young or larvæ of the eels, and this was confirmed through direct observation by Yves Delage in 1886. Beginning the following year, Professor Grassi made careful studies of the development of the eel in Sicily, observing the transformation of Leptocephali into the conger and other genera of eels, and in 1894 the larva of the common eel was discovered.

It was evident that the spawning of mature eels occurred in the sea, and now the place has been discovered by Dr. Schmidt. The European species deposit their eggs to the south and east of the Bermudas, while the American species breeds to the south and west of the islands.

The former make a three-year migration to the shores of Europe from the North Sea to Italy, while the latter journey to the American coast from New England to the south in a few months or a year.

The Leptocephali after their transformation into elvers ascend the streams and sometimes travel overland from stream to stream or up the faces of dams and along the sides of rocks in search of sufficient water. The eels live for years in fresh waters, the period being from five to as many as twenty or thirty. In the autumn some of the mature eels travel back to the sea, the males then being from twelve to eighteen inches in length, the females never less than eighteen. At the original breeding places they spawn and die.

THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF SEPTEMBER 21

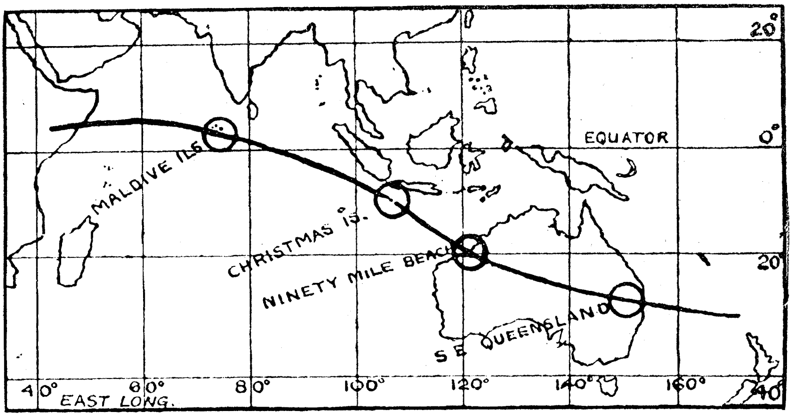
By Isabel M. Lewis

Science Service

Some of the points at which eclipse expeditions were located on September 21 are the Maldive Islands in the Indian Ocean, Christmas Island about 250 miles south of the west end of Java, Wallal on the western coast of Australia, Cordillo Downs in central Australia, to which instruments and supplies were transported by camel trains from Adelaide, South Australia and Goondiwindi in the southern part of Queensland. The longest duration of totality was five minutes and nineteen seconds at Wallal.

The Kodiakanal Observatory expedition from South India in charge of Director Evershed was in the Maldive Islands. On Christmas Island the eclipse was awaited by expeditions from the Royal Observatory of Greenwich and the combined expedition from Holland and Germany which were joined by observers from Java. The British expedition has been on the island since the last of March making extensive preparations for testing the Einstein theory of relativity. It is essential for this purpose to photograph the field of stars in which the sun will be found at the time of eclipse several months before or after the eclipse date. If, as the Einstein theory requires, the rays of light from stars near the sun are deflected from their course at the time of eclipse owing to the attraction of the sun's mass, a comparison of photographs taken when the sun is in this field of stars at eclipse with photographs taken several months previous when the sun was not in the field will show the displacement of the star images required by the theory.

A number of eclipse expeditions



From *Nature*.

Shadow track during total solar eclipse of September 21, 1922.